

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND DIVISION**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.,	)	Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)
	)	(Jointly Administered)
Debtor.	)	
	)	Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens

**ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM REQUEST OF GOODMILL, LLC, PURSUANT  
TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) AND 503(a) AND (b)**

Goodmill, LLC (“Goodmill”), by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby files this request for allowance<sup>1</sup> of administrative expense obligations pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) with respect to claims arising under a nonresidential real property lease between Goodmill, as lessor, and the above-captioned debtor (the “Debtor”), as lessee, and respectfully represents in support thereof as follows:

**BACKGROUND**

1. On November 10, 2008 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).
2. Since the Petition Date, the Debtor has continued in the operation of its business of management of its properties as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections §§ 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
3. Pursuant to a lease dated as of May 19, 2006 between Goodmill, as lessor, and the Debtor, as lessee, as such lease has been amended from time to time (the “Lease”), the Debtor leases retail space at the shopping center known as Union Lake Crossing, located in Millville, New Jersey (the “Shopping Center”).

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<sup>1</sup> Goodmill seeks only allowance of its administrative expense claim herein, consistent with this Court’s Memorandum Opinion entered on February 12, 2009 at Docket Number 2107.

4. Debtor has continued to occupy and use the leasehold premises at the Shopping Center since the Petition Date, but has failed to pay the following post-petition rent and other charges due under the terms of the Lease:

<u>Expenses Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Base Rent (11/10/08-11/30/08)	\$27,183.53
Common Area Maintenance Escrow (11/10/08-11/30/08)	\$2,363.79
Building Improvement Taxes for 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarters, 2009	\$13,962.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$43,510.12</u></b>

5. Pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtor became and remains liable for the post-petition rent and related lease obligations arising under the Lease. Specifically, post-petition rent, common area maintenance charges and other obligations reserved under the Lease are required to be satisfied timely and in full pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

(3) The trustee shall timely perform all of the obligations of the debtor, except those specified in section 365(b)(2), arising from and after the order for relief under any unexpired lease of nonresidential real property, until such lease is assumed or rejected, notwithstanding section 503(b)(1) of this title...

6. As set forth above, the Debtor's estate is liable for the specified post-petition obligations arising under the Lease in the amount of \$43,510.12, which is an administrative expense of the Debtor's estate under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. In addition to Goodmill's entitlement to the foregoing sum as an administrative expense claim under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, Goodmill is also entitled to the allowance of such amount under § 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

After a notice and a hearing, there shall be allowed, administrative expenses, ... including –

(1)(A) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate, including-

(i) wages, salaries and commissions for services rendered after the commencement of the case ...

8. In order to qualify for administrative expense status under § 503(b), the claimant must demonstrate that the claim was incurred post-petition and that the claim is an actual, necessary expense of the estate. In re O'Brien Environmental Energy, Inc., 181 F.3d 527 (3d Cir. 1999). A lessor seeking administrative expense priority for a post-petition rent claim need not demonstrate that the “debtor’s continued possession of its space is a benefit to the estate” in order to prevail on its administrative claim. In re Trak Auto Corp., 277 B.R. 655, 665 (Bankr. E.D.Va. 2002), *rev’d on other grounds*, 367 F.3d 237 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004). Here, Goodmill’s claim for post-petition obligations is an appropriate administrative expense claim under § 503(b) since, among other things, the Debtor has used and occupied the leasehold premises since the Petition Date.

9. It is well established that, absent evidence to the contrary, the “amount fixed by the lease is presumed to represent the reasonable value of the use and occupancy of the premises.” In re Section 20 Land Group, Ltd., 261 B.R. 711, 717 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2000) (citing In re Litho Specialties, Inc., 154 B.R. 733, 740 (D. Minn. 1993)). Accordingly, the rent and related obligations reserved under the Lease are presumptive evidence of the fair and reasonable value of the Debtor’s interest in the leasehold. See, In re Silicon Valley Telecom Exchange, LLC, 284 B.R. 700 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2002); In re Sanborn, Inc., 181 B.R. 683 (Bankr. D. Mass. 1995) (the reasonable value for the use of the premises is the lease contract rate absent evidence that the contract rate is unreasonable).

### **CONCLUSION**

10. For the foregoing reasons, Goodmill is entitled to the allowance of an administrative expense claim in the amount of \$43,510.12, as reflected in the foregoing calculations.

WHEREFORE, Goodmill respectfully requests the entry of an order pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) allowing as an administrative expense obligation against the Debtor’s

estate a claim in the amount of \$43,510.12, together with such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: March 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Claim Request of Goodmill, LLC, Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) was served via first-class mail, postage prepaid, or served electronically via the CM/ECF system, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009 to the following:

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